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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06539 180747Z
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 NSC-05 IO-13
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /052 W
----------021533 190254Z /73
R 180556Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4079

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, AS
SUBJ: IMF/WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETING

REF: STATE 203590

1. JOHN COSGROVE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, OVERSEAS ECONOMIC RELATIONS DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, INFORMS EMBASSY THAT IT VERY LIKELY BUT NOT YET CONFIRMED THAT TREASURER JOHN HOWARD WILL HEAD AUSTRALIA DELEGATION. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, UNDER CURRENT GUIDELINES, ALL GOA MINISTERIAL AND HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF AUSTRALIA MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN CABINET. TREASURY OPINES THAT FOR THIS MEETING, THE APPROVAL IS SIMPLY A FORMALITY AND THA HOWARD WILL GO. SIR FREDERICK WHEELER, SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY AND DON SAUNDERS, DEPTTY GOVERNOR, THE RESERVE BANK - SYDNEY WILL BE ON THE FUND SIDE OF THE DELEGATION AND J.C.(JIM) INGRAM, DIRECTOR, DFA'S DEVELOPMENT ASSITANCE BUREAU ON THE WORLD BANK SIDE OF THE DELEGATION. OF COURSE, BEECHAMP AND WATERMAN OF THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL BACK-STOP THE DELEGATION AND, NO DOUBT, ARE ALREADY IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. AS REGARDS SUBSTANCE, THERE ARE NO PRESSING ISSUES ACCORDING TO THE TREASURY HERE. HOWEVER, THE AUSTRALIANS ARE
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VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT ASSURANCE OF CONTINUING THE 76 ARRANGE-MENTS WHEREBY THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION ATTENDED INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND THE CAUCUS OF THE -10 COUNTRIES FOR, AS THE TWENTIETH COUNTRY, THEY DON'T WANT TO BE OUT IN THE COLD SINCE THEY ARE NOT ONE OF THE G-9 LDCS. ASSUME DEPARTMENT FOCUSING ON THIS AND WILL APPRISE BEECHAMP AND/OR WATERMAN THAT AUSTRALIANS WILL BE INCLUDED AS HERETOFORE.

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3. COSGROVE NOTES THAT HOWARD HAS NOT MET TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND LOOKS FORWARD TO DOING SO. HE NOTES THAT HOWARD WILL, OF COURSE, WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE U.S. DOLLAR AND THE U.S. ECONOMY SINCE PRIME MINISTER FRASER CONTINUES TO EVIDENCE SOME DISQUIET ABOUT THESE SUBJECTS AND WILL EXPECT HOWARD TO REPORT TO HIM ON THESE ISSUES UPON HIS RETURN.
ALSTON

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